

Date of Hearing: June 26, 2012

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Paul J. Cook, Chair

SB 1563 (Cannella) – As Amended: February 24, 2012

SENATE VOTE: 38-0

SUBJECT: Civil service examinations: veterans' preference

SUMMARY: Requires that a veteran who has completed acceptable training in the United States Armed Forces as a peace officer shall receive 15 preference points in an examination for an open peace officer position in state employment and states legislative intent with regard to veterans' abilities to become state peace officers.

Specifically, this bill allows a veteran who has completed acceptable training in the United States Armed Forces as a peace officer to receive an additional 15 points upon obtaining a passing score on an open entrance examination for a peace officer position in state civil service.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the state civil service system, which requires a hiring process that is to be based on merit ascertained by competitive examination.
- 2) Allows state employing agencies to hold open exams for nonpromotional positions in civil service, in which applicants receive points, and based on their scores are placed on ranked hiring lists and are then eligible to be hired into state civil service.
- 3) Identifies certain groups of individuals who shall receive additional points based on their status or prior experience, after becoming eligible for a hiring list by obtaining a passing score on an open, nonpromotional exam.
- 4) Establishes a number of provisions that provide additional exam points for veterans, disabled veterans, spouses of 100 percent disabled veterans, and widows and widowers of veterans who obtain passing scores on state civil service exams.
- 5) Allows a veteran to have 10 points added, and allows a disabled veteran to have 15 points added, to a passing score on an open, nonpromotional exam

FISCAL EFFECT: Senate Appropriations Committee determined that there was either no cost to the state or minimal costs, pursuant to Rule 28.8.

COMMENTS:

According to the author,

While unemployment levels in California are high, the unemployment levels for veterans are even higher. Returning veterans are at a disadvantage in finding employment upon return from their military service since much of the training they receive while in military

service does not correlate with civilian career fields. Military police training does correlate to the peace officer field, and this bill seeks to assist returning veterans with this training in pursuing peace officer positions.

There are some military occupational specialties, for example, Military Police and Military Corrections Officer, which have training requirements similar in varying degrees to those which some California Peace Officers must complete. Recognizing such training and experience in the state examination process both makes sense and advances the goal of reducing veteran unemployment.

Suggestions for clarification:

1. Consider clarifying what entity (for example, the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training) will determine what training will support the award of the additional preference points.
2. Consider specifying what training will support the award.
3. Consider clarifying or deleting "as peace officers" as used in 18978(a)(2) to avoid confusion, as this term is defined in California statute in California Penal Code section 803, et. seq.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

American Legion Department of California, Co-sponsor
Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council, Co-sponsor
AMVETS Department of California, Co-sponsor
California Association of County Veterans Service Officers
California State Commanders Veterans Council
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Opposition

None on File.

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